Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
RARS
WORLDWIDE FRIENDSHIP

CLUB CALL: W4DW

REPEATER: W4DW/R 146.04/64

FEBRUARY 1982 1983

ISSUE 155

LEADING EDGE

SHERMAN STARNES
W4TZU

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The latest Soviet amateur radio satellite, Iskra 3, has fallen from orbit. As reported last month, its internal temperatures were elevated soon after launch from Salyut 7. However, the fifteen-to-ten meter transponder was reported to be in operation on December 7 so I primed up to attempt a contact through it. My efforts were in vain. Over the next several days the telemtry channel for the transponder status was zero, indicating that the transponder was off. The beacon was the strongest I have heard, peaking above S9 on 29.583 mHz. Even the beacon became silent after December 15 but was heard again briefly on Christmas Day. By then the satellite's orbital period was down to less than eighty six minutes, an indication that re-entry was imminent. One report from a Soviet amateur says that as many as thirty Iskra birds are in existance.

The other Russian satellites, RS-3 through RS-8 are operating normally. As I began this column, (9p.m., January 8), RS-5, RS-6 and RS-7 were all above the horizon. They were followed thirty minutes later by RS-8. The early evening hours for the next couple of months will be a good time to catch these birds. Listen at 29.450 and 29.500 mHz. for the beacon sending c.w. telemetry. The transponders occupy the forty kHz. below each beacon and may or may not be on.

UOSAT-OSCAR 9 is in the final stages of stabilization. The spacecraft employs a "gravity gradient" boom to keep the same face toward Earth for camera work. this technique

(continued)

BULLETIN

RARS has been informed by Crabtree Valley that the West Community Room is no longer available for meetings. The February meeting will be held in the basement meeting room at the Red Cross Chapter House located at 100 N. Pear Tree Lane (off New Bern Ave. across from Wake Medical Center.) This is a temporary location--February only! The March meeting will be held at the Faculty Club for our Annual Awards Banquet. A permanent meeting place will be announced at a later date. Please make every effort to attend this meeting. RARS needs your continued support during this period of change.

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: FRANK C. WEISS, KY4W

PRODUCTION EDITOR: ANN M. BRADLEY, WA4APK

involves two masses separated by some distance but connected together by some means. In this case one mass is the spacecraft proper and the other is a 2.5 kilogram weight connected to the spacecraft by a slender fifty foot boom. The gravity gradient effect causes the mass nearest Earth to align itself between the other mass and the center of Earth. Some of you might remember an early gravity gradient experiment performed by a Gemini flight crew with the Gemini spacecraft and its Agena booster tethered together.

OSCAR 8 continues to operate normally. Amateurs who will perform ranging measurements for the Phase 3B satellite later this spring are using the OSCAR 8 transponder for practice and computer program debugging. A range measurement code is inserted in an ASCII data stream transmitted to the satellite and received on the downlink. The difference in the time when the code is transmitted and when it is received is translated into a distance which becomes an entry in a data file on disk. A typical pass might yield up to 300 entries in the disk file. Later the disk file is transmitted via a telephone data link to an amateur in New Jersey where it is reformatted and fed to a program running on a VAX 11/780. This program can handle hundreds of inputs from multiple stations to develop the set of parameters which describe the orbit of the satellite. This information will be required for ground control stations to fire the kick motor on Phase 3B for establishing the desired orbit.

The Phase 3B spacecraft is still in Germany and is now scheduled for launch on April 20.

CALLING ALL AMATEURS----Bob Johnson, AA4L, RARS Training Director announces that upgrade classes begin on February 7th at McKimmon Center. That's every Monday night from 7:00 to 9:00 for eleven weeks. The tuition is $12.00. Whether you're going for General or Extra, it's an excellent way to brush up on your theory. Classes will be conducted by Bob Johnson, AA4L and Frank Weiss, KY4W.

HAMFEST FUSS

by
BRUCE EGGERS
WA9NEW

Sorry I missed the January Meeting. I'm sure, had I been there, all the committee chair slots would have been filled by a tremendous outpouring of the true volunteer spirit from hordes of RARS members competing with each other for the hardest, dirtiest jobs available. But I wasn't, so you didn't and it's my fault. (And apparently my 'phone has been on the blink much of the past month because only KA4ZZO has been able to reach me by phone to offer help. TNX!)

But all that is past. Now's your chance. On the back page of this month's newsletter appears the '83 RARS HAMFEST Volunteer Sign-Up sheet. All YOU have to do is tear it out, fill it out, and mail it back to me. That way YOU'LL know that YOU'RE doing YOUR part for YOUR RARS Hamfest. But act quick. The first ten replies will not only get postage reimbursed but will have first dibs on next year's hard, dirty jobs. (Sorry folks, Clean-Up is already gone. All you can do now is offer to help.)

Committee Chairs filled, as previously reported, are: Prizes/Facility, K4HF; Tickets, KY4W; and Homebrew Contest, WA9SZL. Newly filled are: Hospitality, N4HQZ; CW Contest, W4FMN; Clean-Up, KA4ZZO; and Set-Up/Sound, WA4AOO.

Still-to-be-filled Chairs include such all-time favorites as: Table Vending (Duck soup, see November's column), Generators, Talk-In, ARRL Table, Flea-Market (prefer ex-Navy, you'll get swore at a lot) and RARS Table. So flip to the back page NOW and offer your help while openings are still available. Or better yet, call 779-0266, that's 779-0266. Our operators are standing by.

FOR SALE: Drake T4XC Transmitter, R4-B Receiver, AC-3 Power supply, Collins 312B5 Station Console - All excellent condition. Contact Tom Alexander, WA4OTA - 848-0669

NET NEWS

JFK NET NOTES

The JFK Net (nightly 6:30 - 7:30, 3923 Khz.) is going as strong as ever. Tom WB4WII, is coming out with the quarterly net newsletter later this month. An expanded feature of the well-accepted newsletter is a long listing of used equipment for sale by net members. Tom reports that over 100 copies will be mailed out free to net members which testifies as to the vitality of the net.

Activity is off from the holiday rush but check-ins are still running about 35 per session. In 1982 the net handled 1982 pieces of traffic (coincidence?) and averaged 32 check-ins per night.

Tom holds the net directors' feet to the fire once a month when the directors meet to discuss net business and ways and means to maintain interest and recruit new members. One idea that will be tested in 1983 will be promotions at hamfest. Tom has requested net members to send him QSL cards that will be mounted on a display to be set up at the Raleigh and some of the other hamfests, along with a leaflet explaining the history of the JFK and how to become a member.

The net officers are also thinking about a summer family type outing. More about that later.

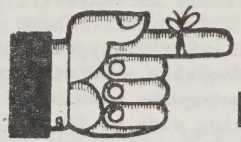
A final, most newsworthy note---our illustrious leader, Tom Graham, made BPL for traffic handled in December.

73---Grover Cook, WA4PID
Asst. Net Manager

CW FOREVER !

As an ardent supporter of the ARRL; our President, W4KFC; and Amateur Radio, Now and Forever; I'd like to publicly acclaim my support for the continuation, enhancement and ever more stringent requirement for a thorough knowledge of CW for all aspiring Amateur Radio licensees. After all, you well recall what a terrible, devastating impact on the Fraternity was visited by the establishment of the Novice license back in the 'Fifties. Can you imagine? Letting some newcomer on the air who can only copy five words per minute! Clearly 'twas the ruination of the Service. And if the Horseless Carriage is to be loosed upon the Thoroughfares of our fair City, then clearly must be imposed the requirement for a Walker, fifty paces 'fore and 'aft to forewarn the Publik and all such must be equipped with a Handcrank to assure proper starting.

wa9new

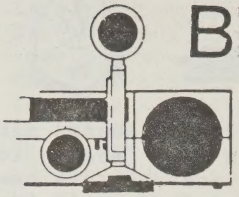


DON'T FORGET...

ATTENTION RARS MEMBERS----1983 Membership dues are now due and may be paid to the treasurer at the meeting or by mail to P.O. Box 17124, Raleigh NC 27609------- Members who join or renew by the end of the February meeting will be eligible for a special drawing to be held during the March Awards Banquet. At that time, a new Roster and a new Newsletter Mailing list will be compiled. Don't get left out! Pay early--avoid the rush!

PROGRAM FOR FEBRUARY

The February meeting will devote its program to a discussion on Satellite Communications, conducted by Sherman Starnes, W4TZU, RARS specialist in the field. Sherm plans to let you members select the topics by way of a question and answer session. So jot down your queries and be there to learn "all you ever wanted to know about Satellite Communications."



BERT'S BEAT

WITH
BERT BAILEY, W4FMN

COMPUTERS ARE THE ESSENCE?????????

Per the Nov. 82 issue of MSN (Microwave System News), US Engineering degrees make up 5.7% of all bachelor degrees in the US, 20.7% in Japan and 37.1% in W. Germany and the overall quality of their grads is superior to ours because of teaching deficiencies in our educational system which can be backplotted to HS and even grammar school. One glitch is perhaps due to everybody going digital. As in the early days of the transistor, tubes are bad medicine. Microprocessors are now the rage, very glamorous and perhaps simpler for students. Many digital courses are not conducive to a high level of understanding what you are doing. Simple logic design is actually quite straight forward when compared with solving an electronics problem with the Laplacian or differential equations. When a piece of digital circuitry is hooked up, you get a GO or NO GO. There are no "maybes"; troubleshooting becomes a lost art. Throw in another module. What exactly happened is not to be determined. Somebody else will repair the module. Convincing the budding EE that he should probe analog side of things is difficult. Industry complains that few of today's grads can do analog-related work. Get them into the microwave region and they are lost. Texas Instruments, for one, is running a crash course in conjunction with Texas Univ. on microwaves for some of its people. Hughes Aircraft has in-house courses lasting one to two years to train their new hires in microwaves, radar, analog and RF technologies. And so it goes. It is the same old song, third verse. Those old-fashioned tubes, watta waste. May be BUT what is driving all those transponders in those satellites rotating overhead? Never guess----traveling wave TUBES, affectionately known as TWTs. Where are you, Lee Johnson? Oh well, all is not lost. Some state universities are even teaching power engineering again. So, all you bit freaks, have fun for tomorrow you may have to study analog to get your 50 terabit RAMs back on the bus. Hi Hi. Give me the old 6246s.##################

FUZZIFY$$

This is the title of a book I would like to read. It's Fuzzify by James S. Boren, EPM Publications, Inc. McLean, Va. (Our Ex-Prexy's QTH). JS Boren says that, if you are to be a phony, learn how to be sincere about it. Write learned papers and resumes, apply for grants, profundify reports. Learn how to handle a drivelator, how to tell a floatator from a flapperator. All bureaucratic types are mercilessly revealed. Fuzz words are laid bare in "syllabattic" detail in a dictionery that tops all word books for humor and ingenuity. FUZZIFY's definition of a bureaucratic employee is: "Anyone who is dedicated to the principles of dynamic inaction, decision postponement, verticle and linear mumbling, creative nonresponsiveness, bold irresolution and procedural abstrations Bureaucracy is no longer related to employment; it is a way of life. Bureaucrats are found in all organizations, but they thrive in large governmental agencies, corporations unions, educational and religeous institutions. None pay taxes. How's that for a start? Now go to the library and check out a copy of this compendious bit of prolixity. It will be most salubrious for your edicication.----------73####################

RUN FOR THE ROSES**********

That last bit about bureaucrats could apply to trying to turn out the guard for a RARS exercise. Not all the time, however, and thankfully. What's next on the agenda is the NC Roadrunners Club's annual Run for the Roses. The quaint name is derived from the ancient custom of presenting a rose to each lady running this race near Middlebrook. If like previous forays RARS will be represented by such as Bill, WB4CCA; Joe, WA4ENZ; Mike, WD4LXR; Cahrl (for Charles), WB4DCM; and Bert, W4FMN (working and not running this time. A nice feature of the membership in the NCRC--you enjoy the benefits, running, but then you are expected to work for a few. Good idea for RARS members who have never helped out with a program). If my predications are faulty, sorry about that, will correct in March issue of the RARS News. Almost forgot, this run is a 5 kilometer jaunt and the dry run is (or was) on Sunday, Jan. 16, with the live run on Feb. 13. And RARS should acquite itself in its typically professional amateur fashion. See you on the road!

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HAPPY VALENTINES DAY
FROM
THE NEWSLETTER STAFF

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held on January 5, 1983, in the West Community Room at Crabtree Valley Mall. The meeting was called to order by President "Doc" Cobb, WA4YZX, and members and guests were welcomed. The roster was signed by 50 members and 13 guests. One guest, Ron Maples, NP2AQ, became a member of RARS this evening.

Doc explained that at the last Advisory Board meeting, the Board moved that the club authorize an advance of $400.00 to the Hamfest Chairman, Bruce Eggers, WA9NEW, for pre-Hamfest expenses. A motion was made, seconded and carried for the advance of this expenditure.

Doc expressed thanks to all who were able to attend the RARS Christmas party.

Doc reminded all that the March meeting will be our annual Awards Banquet. A motion was made, seconded and carried to have it at the Faculty Club. All members planning to attend should sign up at the February meeting.

Billy Edwards, KA4BWC, FM Committee Chairman, said the noise problem has been solved and cleared in the repeater. He urged members to use the repeater more often. Any members interested in being control operators, please contact Billy.

Bert Bailey, WA4FMN, asked for volunteers for a race on February 13th. Several volunteered.

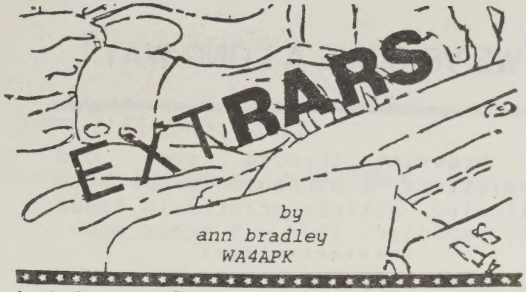
Any members needing 610 forms, contact Chuck Littlewood, KA4HF.

Doc explained the new roster list and asked all members to check it for any corrections.

The program for the evening was a slide presentation from IDXF of the Desecheo Island DXpedition. Despite some difficulties, the program was enjoyed by all.

The door prize was won by our new member, Ron Maples, NP2AQ. After doughnuts, coffee and fellowship, the meeting was adjourned.

Marty Silver, NY4H
Secretary, RARS



A whole passel of guests were present at the January meeting - 14 to be exact - far too many to list. We were happy to see them all and hope they'll soon be fellow RARS members.

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RARS welcomes new member, Ron Maples, NP2AQ. Ron has lived all over the world, in lands far and wide and must hold the record for the number and variety of past call-signs. RARS is happy to have you in 4-land, Ron.

****

Three cheers for the upgrades! And it looks like RARS members have been busy lately. Pete Thatcher, N4HQZ, upgraded to General. Bob, Bailey, N4FYL, now KF4IZ, Advanced. Jack Brookshire, N4HBG, and also Dave Mishoe, KA4VIP, also upgraded to Advanced. Dave is looking for a new call. Why anyone would give up a call like VIP, is beyond me. Last but not least, Joe Love, KB4RR, upgraded just last week to Extra. Joe also asked for a new call. Jim and Rollin will flip for his old one. Congratulations, Fellows, ya' done good. RARS is proud of you!

****

Extrars wishes to express to Bob Johnson, AA4L, and family the concern of all RARS members during his mother's illness. Please know our thoughts and prayers are with you.

****

Happy to announce that Larry Weiss now has his Novice call - KB4DLG. Nice going, Larry! Dad, Frank, dubbed him "Darn Lucky Guy"--- most appropriate. The Weiss family now boasts 4 hams. Impressive! Now, C'mon, Cindy.

****

With a borrowed rig and a "slinky" antenna, Rollin, NF4P, has been able to make an occassional 20 m. contact with some of us Raleigh folks, all the way from Connecticut, where he's been visiting his dad. We enjoyed the QSOs; hopefully his next QSO will be on "64."

****

Hope you'll all be able to enjoy my Valentine. Construction is under way on a 12 foot red heart "with arrow," no less, for the top of our tower (weather permitting installation). It will be visible from the beltline between Jones Franklin Road and South Hills Mall. I love it!!

"WE'VE COME A LONG WAY"

In browsing through some old newsletters, I happened across the following article printed in Issue 100, February, 1978 - 5 years ago.

****

RARS NEWS 100 MONTHS OLD

RARS News, with this February 1978 issue, is 100 months old. It's a good time to consider what we are about.

The club has done much. We are coming up on our sixth annual hamfest in April. Members monthly conduct free message relay activities for the public at Crabtree Valley Mall and North Hills Mall in Raleigh

Special projects have included:
--a mobile station aboard a railroad steam engine.
--a commemorative statiod at Kitty Hawk in honor of the birth of manned flight.
--Sending Christmas messages to governors of other states from the governor of North Carolina.
--Providing communication for a statewide Christmas tree lighting ceremony by Gov. Bob Scott.

RARS has conducted novice classes to enable newcomers to get their FCC licenses. The club has also conducted upgrading classes to enable members to acquire higher class licenses.

RARS established a two meter repeater WB4ACF. Club members designed and constructed a second generation repeater.

Some of our members along the way became Silent Keys, among them former Raleigh Mayor, Jim Reid.

RARS members of today have many miles to go and many things to do before they sleep.

The best is yet to come for our club. We have many good people with many good ideas. All it takes to make RARS better every year is for members to say "I WILL" when asked to take a more active part in the greatest hobby in the world.

Will you? C.T. WEST, WD4HSI
Editor

****

Still pretty timely, right? RARS has grown since then. We re coming up on our 11th Annual Hamfest. And it's become bigger and better every year. Now we have a new state of the art repeater w/autopatch. We have acquired some valuable material such as audio-visual equipment and a sound system for our meetings. We've added the Awards Banquet to our yearly calendar of events. We still conduct classes to enable hams to upgrade their license. We continue to do our bit in the name of public Service. Why we've even moved a hospital! We've perhaps become more sophisticated. But in reading back over these old issues. I couldn't help but wonder "Do we have the willingness, the enthusiasm, the dedication that these early RARs members had?"

Ann, WA4APK

P.S. as in public service

Bruce Eggers
WA9NEW

January's here so the annual Crabtree Traffic Booth is now but a fond memory. With some confusion and a lack of adequate guidance from the Director, the membership done good! But before we sweep it under the rug 'til next time, one shortcoming still exists. Posters! As has been noted by many, your's truly included, we REALLY NEED SOME POSTERS. Some attractive, explanatory eyecatching posters. I've got some ideas and so do others. What I haven't found is anyone who can put them on posterboard.

HELP ! ! !

So what's next? Backing up the Red Cross at the soccer games in June. Then there's bound to be some races coming up that we don't know about yet. Anybody want to work a traffic booth at Crabtree just before Easter?

OFFICIAL 11th ANNUAL RARS HAMFEST SIGN-UP SHEET

(to be filled out by all RARS members and returned to WA9NEW)

Dear Bruce,

I appreciate all of the hard work you've already done for the '83 RARS Hamfest and I know that your biggest worry right now is getting all of the committee chairs filled and enough volunteers signed-up to pull-off the 11th Annual RARS Hamfest. So I'm taking this opportunity to stand up and be counted. After all, I've: (Select one or more, as appropriate)

___ a. Been to a lot of Hamfests and I know they take a lot of work. Now's my chance to do my part so you can count on me.

___ b. Never been to a Hamfest but I can tell that there's a lot of work involved. I plan on going to Hamfests in the future so you can count on me to do my part now.

___ c. Never been to a Hamfest, never plan on going to a Hamfest, could care less about Hamfests, but as a RARS member I see the benefits to the club so you can count on me.

Sign me up. (Check two blocks, minimum. See Hamfest Fuss, this issue, for Committee Chairs still open.)

___ I want to head-up the _____ committee.

___ I'll work on the _____ commitee.

___ I'd like to volunteer to be Hamfest Chairman for 1984.

___ If my first three choices are taken, I'll do anything to help. You just pick the job and let me know.

___ If everything is taken, put me first on your list for whatever dirty, thankless job is open for next year. I just want to do my part.

By the way, from what I've seen so far, I think you could improve the '83 RARS Hamfest by

_____

_____

_____.

And, as a self-appointed expert in running Hamfests, I'd just like to say that the way you're __ stinks and if it were up to me, I'd __. (Hope you take the criticism in the spirit it's intended.)

73,

RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY, INC.
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HAPPY
VALENTINE'S DAY

RARS meets each first Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the West Community Room of Crabtree Valley Mall.

Calendar

Feb. 2 - Regular RARS Meeting

Feb. 5, 6 - QRP SSB Contest; 1/82 QST

Feb. 7 - Upgrade Classes, McKimmon Ctr.

Feb. 10 - RARS Newscopy Deadline

Feb. 12, 13 - QCWA QSO Party - CW

Feb. 16 - RARS Board Meeting

Feb. 19, 20 ARRL DX Con., Phone

Feb. 20. - Elkin NC Hamfest

Feb. 26, 27 - CQ WW160 M Con., Phon

Feb. 27 - Vienna, Va. Winterfest

March 2 - RARS Annual Awards Banque

March 2 - FCC Exams, Greensboro, NC

March 19, 20 - Charlotte NC Hamfest

April 17 - RARS 11th Annual Hamfest